

REMARKS

The Office Action of May 4, 2005 has been carefully reviewed. Claims 1-12 are pending in the application and all are rejected in the present Office Action. The following remarks and a Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 are provided in response.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Begala et al. (US Patent #5,185,062 or US Patent #5,595,629). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Both Begala '062 and Begala '629 describe processes for improving drainage and retention.

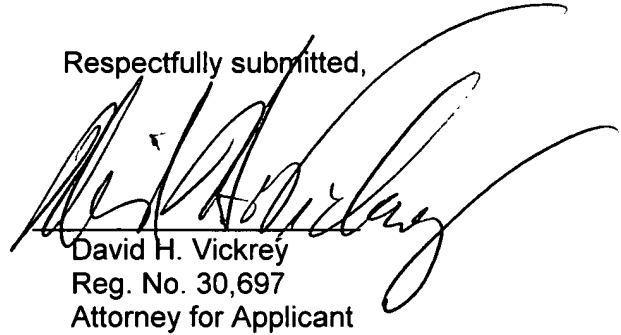
Begala '629 relates to the addition of an anionic polymer, which is a formaldehyde condensate of a naphthalene sulfonic acid salt, and a cationic polymer. Applicants fail to see in Begala '629 any teaching, suggestion or disclosure of **vinyl addition polymers** as claimed in the present application. On this basis alone, Begala '629 cannot render the claims of the current invention obvious.

Begala '062 relates to the addition of high molecular weight cationic polymer and a medium molecular weight anionic polymer including ionizable sulfonate. Applicants fail to see in Begala '062 any teaching, suggestion or disclosure of **cationic polymers having aromatic groups** as claimed in the present application. On this basis alone, Begala '062 cannot render the claims of the current invention obvious.

As Applicants have shown above, neither Begala '062 nor '629 renders the claims of the current application obvious. The remarks provided above regarding Begala '062 and '629 warrant withdrawal of the current rejection. However, in further support of the non-obviousness of the currently claimed invention, Applicants submit the attached Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 of Erik Lindgren, one of the co-inventors.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully request that the present application be found in condition for immediate allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to David H. Vickrey, is written over the typed name and title.

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